Honolulu Dec. 15th 1846

Rev. A. A. Phelps
New York

Dear Brother

116

Your letter, (date not recollected as I am not at home) was received a few months since. Last week Br. Green from Hilo and Maui sent me an unsealed letter directed to you & requested me to read it—add something if I should & write you. This last I intended to do before his letter came to hand.

I am sorry that I can do no more to aid in the cause in which you are engaged. I sympathize with you in every movement for the good of Islam. Before I left the service of the A.B.C.F.M. I foresaw or thought I did the difficulties that body would be in eventually on account of slavery not because they had then determined to take the part of slaveholders but because the principles which guided them in their transactions with their missionaries were essentially those of slavery. The fact that the stipends or support of missionaries, was proposed to be and is now entirely in the hands of the Prud. Com. i.e. the Com. do not allow in theory that the mission have anything to say about it—the fact too that no missionary is allowed to return to his own country without liberty first obtained from the Prud. Com. & that not as a matter of form or etiquette but as a matter of law made without consulting the mission. The missions are now beginning to understand that

they may be involved in difficulty so far as support is concerned if the Board should get into difficulty. But hitherto the mission has had great confidence in the Board that they would bring themselves out right. Indeed if one looks at an Annual Report of the A.B.C.F.M. - at the number of D.D.s - LL.Ds - Revds, &c. &c. embracing the very elite of the U.S. it seems like suicide to do anything to oppose them. In fact that is the argument I have heard used, what can we do against such an array of influence & authority? I have been surprised at the influence of Dr. Anderson over the minds of the brethren here when he has so often done that which they could not approve. When the subject of slavery was first agitated here the brethren by a considerable majority espoused the cause of the slave, but on the smallest hint from him that the mission ought not to meddle with that subject they lost all sympathy for the slave or the friends of the slave. The fear of hurting the feelings of or offending man has often injured the cause. It is for this reason the churches here are in such a state as Br. Green states. The fundamental idea seemed to be that we can do nothing without the Chiefs - their minds must be conciliated - you must consult them first.

I believe I have said before to you that I have no personal quarrel with any of the Board nor do I wish to have with any of the mission here. I therefore could see it my duty to write anything to be published in the U.S. that will be a means of disturbing our harmony here. It was suspected by the mission that Br Green & myself would soon be obliged to return to the U.S. for want of support, but this has not occurred yet & there

~~and~~ this does not seem a great probability of it at present, though I am not certain but duty & my family will require it before long.

I rejoice at every advancement of the Union Missionary Society, not merely because it has nothing to do with slavery but because another society was & is needed to carry on the work of missions. A new field is now opening in California which ought to be taken possession of at once & it would strengthen our hands very much.

It is my intention to get back into missionary work again as soon as I can well & honorably retreat from my present post. As I now have a colleague there seems some prospect of such a result; but I shall be almost as much needed as interpreter in the case of foreign litigation as I have been for judge. The new judge of course has as yet no use of the Hawaiian language which one needs almost every hour of the day.

A thorough going review of the proceedings of the A.B.C.F.M. for the last ten years written by a missionary would be the best means of awakening the minds of the Christian public. It would be long of course & reveal some astounding facts which no one is acquainted with but missionaries & for they would know the private & secret instructions (for such I call them) to the missions. There are many documents in Boston pertaining to this mission which will never be revealed till the judgment day & some from there, here.

I pray God to bless you in uprooting slavery everywhere & planting the true gospel everywhere Yours truly

Lorrin Andrews

SHIP

The Rev. A. A. Phelps

New York

U.S.A.